

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (new): A method for supplying an air separation unit using a gas turbine, in which incoming air enters an inlet of said separation unit, at least a fraction of said incoming air is supplied from said gas turbine, at least one nitrogen-enriched gas stream is extracted from the separation unit, and this nitrogen-enriched gas stream is heated, characterized in that, to heat the nitrogen-enriched gas stream, heat exchange occurs between the fraction of incoming air issuing from the gas turbine and a liquid fraction to be heated in a first heat exchanger, in order to obtain a heated liquid fraction, this heated liquid fraction is added to a liquid mixture fraction, in order to obtain a liquid fraction to be cooled, and heat exchange occurs between this liquid fraction to be cooled and the nitrogen-enriched gas stream in a second heat exchanger.

Claim 15 (new): The supply method as claimed in claim 14 characterized in that at least part of the liquid mixture fraction is supplied from the outlet of a boiler.

Claim 16 (new): The supply method as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that at least part of the liquid fraction cooled in the second heat exchanger is returned to the inlet of a boiler.

Claim 17 (new): The supply method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that this boiler is supplied with energy using the gas turbine.

Claim 18 (new): The supply method as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that at least part of the liquid fraction cooled in the second heat exchanger is returned to the inlet of the first heat exchanger.

Claim 19 (new): The supply method as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that countercurrent heat exchange occurs between the liquid fraction to be heated and the incoming air fraction issuing from the gas turbine, and also between the liquid fraction to be cooled and the nitrogen-enriched gas stream.

Claim 20 (new): The supply as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the liquid is water.

Claim 21 (new): An installation for supplying an air separation unit using a gas turbine, comprising a gas turbine comprising compressed air supply means, particularly a compressor, an air separation unit comprising incoming air supply means comprising at least first supply means, associated with the supply means of the gas turbine, as well as means for removing at least one nitrogen-enriched gas stream, this installation further comprising means for heating the nitrogen-enriched gas stream, characterized in that these heating means comprise a first heat exchanger, in which the first incoming air supply means circulate, intake means for a liquid fraction to be heated, terminating at the inlet of the first heat exchanger, means for removing a heated liquid fraction, communicating with the outlet of the first heat exchanger, a second heat exchanger, in which means for removing the nitrogen-enriched gas stream circulate, intake means for a liquid fraction to be cooled, communicating with the inlet of the second heat exchanger, and means for removing a cooled liquid fraction, communicating with the outlet of the second heat exchanger, and in that the means for removing the heated liquid fraction communicate with the intake means for the liquid fraction to be cooled.

Claim 22 (new): The installation as claimed in claim 21, characterized in that the intake means for the liquid fraction to be cooled communicate with a boiler.

Claim 23 (new): The installation as claimed in claim 21, characterized in that the means for removing the cooled liquid fraction communicate with the inlet of a boiler.

Claim 24 (new): The installation as claimed in claim 22, characterized in that energy supply means are provided, extending between the gas turbine and this boiler.

Claim 25 (new): The installation as claimed in claim 21, characterized in that the intake means for the liquid fraction to be heated communicate with the means for removing the cooled liquid fraction.

Claim 26 (new): The installation as claimed in claim 21, characterized in that the heat exchangers are of the countercurrent type.